

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 79

Expressing the sense of the Congress that any Federal health care legislation should not include price controls.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 2, 1993

Mr. ARMEY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Congress that any Federal health care legislation should not include price controls.

Whereas 40 centuries of human experience teach the futility of price controls;

Whereas such controls fail because they do not address the true causes of inflation, and amount to treating the symptoms rather than the disease;

Whereas the disease of inflation is almost always caused by government intervention in the marketplace, and can therefore only be cured by less, not more, intervention;

Whereas price controls harm consumers by discouraging producers from freely offering their goods and services;

Whereas the resulting scarcity and diminished quality of goods tends to inspire evasion, black markets, and disrespect for law among previously honest citizens;

Whereas these evasions, in turn, inspire bureaucratic expansions and ever more minute and officious regulation to enforce the controls;

Whereas “voluntary” controls tend to become mandatory, and “temporary” ones, to become permanent;

Whereas by bottling up demand, such controls, once lifted, invariably cause prices to shoot up for a time, perversely defeating their purpose;

Whereas our predecessors of the Continental Congress, having learned these many lessons through painful experience, furnished a worthy precedent for all time when, on June 4, 1778, they resolved to urge the repeal of all State price controls and, having secured this repeal, materially advanced the cause of American independence;

Whereas today’s medical price inflation is primarily a result of massive stimulation of demand by the United States Government and can therefore only be brought down by ending that stimulation;

Whereas allowing market forces to operate freely in health insurance will be the most effectual way to hold down medical prices; and

Whereas medical price controls, far from benefiting the American people, would produce all of the aforementioned melancholy results, cause much needless human suffering, and in the end, degrade the finest health care system the world has ever known: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that any  
3 legislation enacted to reform the health care system of the  
4 United States should not include price controls.

